

beneath is covered with minute silvery-white hairs; beside the ordinary tubercles, the anterior portion of the sole of the foot and the base of the toes beneath, are crowded with small rounded warts, which are much more numerous and conspicuous than in the common mouse.

	In. Lines.		In. Lines.
Length from nose to root of tail . . .	3 1	Length from nose to base of ear . . .	0 8 $\frac{3}{4}$
of tail . . . . .	1 11	of tarsus (claws included) . . .	0 8
from nose to eye . . . . .	0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	of ear . . . . .	0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$

Habitat, Maldonado, La Plata, (June.)

The skull of this animal, is rather shorter and broader than that of *Mus Musculus*, the upper surface is more arched, the zygomatic arch is much more slender, and the nasal bones are rather broader. In the convexity of the upper surface, and the slenderness of the zygomatic arch, this skull very nearly resembles that of *M. gracilipes*; this latter, however, has the zygomatic arch more convex, projecting more suddenly on the anterior part, and the interparietal bone smaller. Length of skull 10 lines, width 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ , length of nasal bones 4 lines, distance between the outer side of the incisors, of the upper jaw, and the first molar 2 $\frac{7}{8}$  lines. See Plate 34, fig. 3. *a*.

The dentition is figured in Plate 34, figs. 3. *b* and *c*.

This mouse is rather less than *M. Musculus*, the tail is much shorter in proportion, the fur is longer and softer, and the ears are more distinctly clothed with hair.

The pale and delicate yellow colour of the upper parts of the body, and the pure white of the under parts, renders the present species conspicuous amongst its congeners. I may further remark that the white colour which in the Muridæ (when it occurs) is usually confined to the under part of the body, or extends but slightly on the sides, is in the present animal extended considerably on the sides of the body, and occupies an equal portion with the yellow of the upper parts. The name *bimaculatus* is applied to this animal on account of the two conspicuous white patches, which are situated behind the ears.

In affinity as well as in appearance it most nearly approaches to *Mus gracilipes* and *M. elegans*; with no other species of the genus *Mus*, here described, can it be confounded, since these only have the tarsus hairy beneath.

The principal points of distinction between the present animal and *Mus elegans*, are noticed in the account of that species.

"This mouse, when alive, had a very elegant appearance. A countryman, who brought it me, found six of them living together in one burrow."—D.

# MUS GRACILIPES.

## PLATE XI.

*Mus gracilipes*, *Waterh.*, Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London, for February 1837, p. 19.

*M. suprà flavo-lavatus; pilis pone aurem utramque, labiis, corporeque subtus, albis; pedibus parvulis, gracilibus, carneis, suprà et ad calcem pilis albis tectis; caudâ gracili, pilis albis instructâ, quoad longitudinem corpus ferè æquante; auribus mediocribus; vellere mediocri et molli, pilis omnibus ad basin plumbeis.*

DESCRIPTION.—General colour very pale yellowish brown, a tint produced by the admixture of black and pale fawn colour; the hairs of the ordinary fur being of the latter tint near the apex, and dusky at the apex, whilst the longer hairs are black. The feet, tail, under parts of the body and the sides of the muzzle, are pure white. All the hairs of the body, (which are soft, and of moderate length), are deep gray at the base. The ears are of moderate size, well clothed with hairs, of which those on the inner side are yellowish, and those on the outer, are brown on the anterior part, and white on the posterior. A small tuft of white hairs springs from the neck immediately behind the ears; this tuft is hidden when the ears are folded back. The tail is slender and short, (being not quite equal to the body in length) of a pale flesh-colour, and sparingly furnished with minute white hairs. The feet are very small and slender, and the naked parts are of a pale flesh-colour. The sole of the foot is covered with hairs; the toes beneath, and the tubercles (which are as in *Mus Musculus*), however, are naked. The hairs of the moustaches are of moderate length, and of a blackish colour, some of them, however, are grayish white.

	In. Lines.		In. Lines.
Length from nose to root of tail . . .	2 10	Length from nose to ear . . .	0 8 $\frac{1}{4}$
of tail . . . . .	1 7	of tarsus (claws included) . . .	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$
from nose to eye . . . . .	0 4 $\frac{1}{3}$	of ear . . . . .	0 4 $\frac{1}{4}$

Habitat, Bahia Blanca, (September.)

This species slightly exceeds the harvest mouse (*Mus messorius*) in size, its ears are considerably larger in proportion, and the tail is shorter. Compared with the common mouse (*Mus Musculus*) it is smaller, the tail is more slender, and shorter, and the feet are likewise more slender and proportionately much smaller; the ears are more distinctly clothed with hairs.